

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:488

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007

REVISED TEXT ON DUTY REDUCTION BY WTO

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to join hands with other developing countries to strengthen its opposition to the revised text on duty reduction commitments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of revised text circulated by the World Trade Organisation(WTO) in this regard; and
- (d) the names of the countries who have so far agreed to support India's stand?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has not brought out any revised text on duty reduction commitments. However, on 17 July, 2007, the Chairmen of the Committee on Agriculture - Special Session (COA-SS) and Negotiating Group on Market Access (NGMA) at the WTO brought out draft modalities in Agriculture and Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) respectively. The draft modalities on Agriculture comprises proposals on the three pillars of agriculture negotiations, namely domestic support, market access and export competition. The draft modalities on NAMA comprises proposals on the formula for tariff reductions, markup on the unbound tariff lines, flexibilities for developing countries, sectoral initiatives, non tariff barriers and treatment for developing countries with low bindings, small and vulnerable economies (SVE's), recently acceded members (RAMs) and least developed countries (LDCs). India has been actively engaged with its developing country coalition partners in the G-20 and G-33 and NAMA 11 to seek an outcome of the negotiations that would appropriately reflect the development dimension of the Doha Round mandate.